BeeMail Newsletter

March 2014

It is a great feeling to know that Spring is only a month away here in North Georgia, especially after our snowfall here in mid-February. This was a wet, heavy snow, and as quickly as the snow fell, it began to melt. Here are some pictures of my companion Miss Sanja taken while out checking on things at the farm. She does not like snow on her fur! We had been hit with a lot of snow falling out of some large pine trees just before this and she is keeping a close eye on the sky for any more that might be coming down! This has been a long, very cold, snowy winter!

Sanja does NOT like the snow... especially the big clumps from the pines trees that fell on her head!

Each month I am amazed at the responses we receive after our newsletter goes out. We get requests for new items, suggestions on improvements that can be made, and questions about things we have never thought of. For example, we have received many inquiries from our customers about the fine quality oak and Eastern Red Cedar lumber we use in making our observation hives. People would like to purchase this wood to use and they want to know: who is our supplier?

Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® uses trees from our own land on Pigeon Mountain. We only use trees that have died naturally, been blown over in storms, or been struck by lightening -- we do not harvest any healthy trees. Once cut, we saw the lumber and stack it to air dry until it is ready for use. This drying process takes about one year. Normally we harvest about 300 trees per year -- some years more, some years less. Two years ago we had over 1,000 trees down due to very high winds from what was left of a hurricane. Because we don't cut down live trees, our quantity available for sale varies from year to year.

Because of customer interest, we have added a section to our website, Pigeon Mountain Brand® Air-Dried Lumber, to make this lumber available to our customers. Currently we have red oak, white oak, chestnut oak and Eastern Red Cedar available. Sometimes we have other species such as Black Cherry, Walnut, Elm, Hickory, Yellow Tulip Poplar, and Persimmon. Our stock varies, so be sure to ask about availability. We can ship the lumber to you, but it's most economical if you pick it up. This also gives you the chance to pick what best suits your needs. If your ambitions are greater than your talent, remember our craftsmen at PMTC® can make about anything you wish.

Another inquiry we often get is about sales. Do we ever have sales on discontinued items, closeouts or scratch and dents? It is certainly a fair question, and yes, we often have all kinds of things that may have a slight damage but does not affect the use of the product. We have added to our website a feature we are calling "PMTC Real Deal$". Products available at our PMTC Real Deal$ section cover a wide range of products for bee keeping use as well as other unique items. This should be fun for our customers. After all...who doesn't love a real deal?!

Package bees are still available online.

Here at Pigeon Mountain Trading Company, March is when we make our final preparations for bee season. Our tentative delivery dates are March 27, April 1, April 29, May 8, May 13, May 21, and May 28. You will receive a call from us to confirm your actual delivery date/pick up date. Because we moved most of our bees South for the winter, we are in good shape to deliver all live bees on time this year. Since we had another crazy winter, this was a good call on our part!

Time is running out to order your live bees! We still have package bees and nucs for sale, so give us a call or go online and place your order today.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, I love to hear from our customers! I hope you enjoy all the new editions to this month's newsletter.

S. W. McCloud

Nucs are a slightly more advanced option than package bees.

Pigeon Mountain Brand™ Air-Dried Lumber

At Pigeon Mountain Trading Company®, we use lumber for items like our observation hives, our ultimate eastern red cedar hive and our solid oak boards from our very own land on Pigeon Mountain. Our supply is large enough that we are offering you an opportunity to purchase this fine, hardwood lumber from us. A lot of our lumber is currently sold to people such as contractors and cabinet makers and used to build furniture, cabinets, stairs, and mantles for fire places.

Wood is cut in widths from 6 inches up to 14 inches, and is available in thicknesses of one inch and two inches. We saw it at 1-1/4 inch thick and 2-1/4 inches thick to allow for it to be planed smooth. Lengths range from 8 feet up to 16 feet.

If you are interested in larger pieces of timber, we can cut sizes such as 5 x 10 inches, 5 x 8 inches, 6 x 10 inches, 6 x 12 inches, etc. These sizes are great for mantle pieces above fire places or whatever your need may be.

PMTC® hardwood lumber is sold only FOB our lumber yard. We will gladly arrange shipping if you wish, which will be quoted to you. Or, we will load your truck if you come in and select exactly what you want. We encourage customers to come visit and select their own lumber.

We have a large supply of white oak, red oak and chestnut oak available (approximately 150,000 board feet in stock). We also have Eastern Red Cedar in one inch and two inch boards.

All is sold by the "board foot"...a board foot is 12 inches wide x 1 inch thick

PM20012 Oak = $0.88 per board foot

PM20013 Eastern Red Cedar = $2.75 per board foot

Call the store to place your order: 706-638-1491

NEW STORE HOURS!

Now until June, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® will be open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

find us on facebook

www.facebook.com/PigeonMountainTrading

by Susan Johnson

The shipping department at Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® has been busy, busy, busy! We have the new warehouse set up and ready to go. We are excited to have such a big warehouse to ship from just in time for bee season. I know that all of you are ready to get out in your hives. Since we carry all of the products you will need to make beekeeping a success, we want to make sure that you have all of the supplies and equipment you need as soon as possible. Our products ship through UPS, and you can choose ground, 2nd day, 3rd day, or next day air service.

I'd like to point out that there are shipping weight limits: UPS does not ship packages over 150 lbs. If your order exceeds 150 lbs., contact the store and we will provide you with a freight quote. If you prefer to use UPS, then you may place multiple orders so that your weight limit does not exceed the UPS restrictions.

I would also like to take this time to thank you for being patient with us as the move was going on to our new warehouse. I am happy to say that shipping from PMTC® continued with little to no disruption. We have a great group of people working here and we want to make your experience with PMTC® a great one!

on the line with CUSTOMER SERVICE

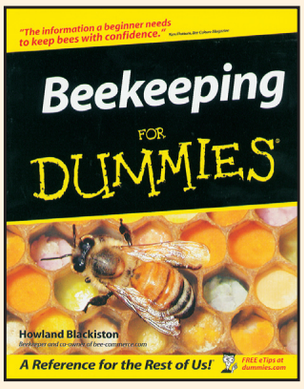
Sarah Parker-Sturges

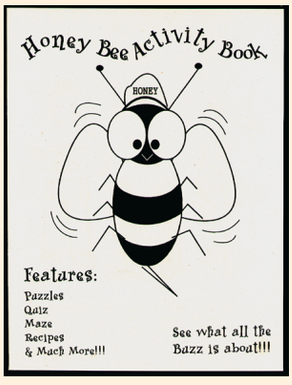
Hi, I'm Sarah -- the newest member of Pigeon Mountain Trading Company®. When I began several weeks ago, I was a complete honeybee rookie! But I took advantage of my surroundings and read some of the beekeeping books we have in stock! I found "Beekeeping for Dummies" and "Beekeeping 101" (both available online and in our store) to be extremely helpful. I can now identify the worker, drone and queen (by the eyes and size too!) So my biggest advice to those of you who are newcomers to beekeeping, is to READ!! After reading up on bees I realized I was guilty of calling a lot of flying bugs BEEs and was completely incorrect. I have learned so much already, and I am looking forward to our first bee shipments and meeting our customers that will be picking up their merchandise and bees at the store. Should you ever have a questions, don't hesitate to contact me. My email is SarahParker-Sturges@pigeonmountaintrading.com and our office number is 706-638-1491.

Items of the Month!

Beekeeping for Dummies
This book comes highly recommended for "new-BEES" by our own SarahParker-Sturges. Written by Howland Blackiston and put in words that everyone can understand, this is great for those beginning the journey as beekeepers.

PM0446.....$21.59
Ship weight: 2 lbs.





Bee Coloring Book
Even the youngest of children can learn about honey bees! This is a wonderful book for children to have fun coloring and learning about bees.

PM0460.....$0.99
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Around the Store

by Lori Jackson, General Manager

Well it is that time of year again...bee season is upon us! Here at the store we are working hard to stock all of the items you may need to start the season off right. We have everything from starting your hives to extracting your honey at the end of the season. Stop by our store or visit our website at www.pigeonmountaintrading.com to get the supplies you need.

New Bee Season Store Hours: From March 10 until June 7, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company's® will now be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Here are our anticipated pickup/delivery dates for bees: March 27, April 1, April 29, May 8, May 13, May 21, and May 28. As you know, weather can change, so we will contact those of you who have placed orders and let you know your EXACT pick up/delivery date.

Here's what to expect when it's time to get your bees:
Pick Up:

- Arrive at 106 North Main Street to pay for the rest of your shipment or get a paid receipt from the register.
- Once you have your receipt, go to the warehouse on Duke Street to pick up the bees.
- Once you pick up your bees, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® is no longer liable for their well being.

Delivery:

- We will contact you to get the remainder of your payment if you only paid your 50% deposit.
- All bees will be shipped via United States Postal Service.
- Once the USPS takes possession of the bees, Pigeon Mountain Trading Company® is not longer liable for their well being.

Thank you to all of our loyal customers that keep bee season the busiest time of the year.

• • Pigeon Mountain Purchasing • •

by Kim Littlejohn, Purchasing Manager

It is an exciting time here at PMTC®, as the delivery trucks are arriving almost daily bringing us a wide variety of merchandise. Luckily, we have received several items that were on back order and we've been able to get them shipped out to those of you who have been waiting. Because we try our very best to fulfill our customers' unique requests, oftentimes specialty items or sizes take longer to arrive. In these situations, we always appreciate your patience and understanding!

We also have some of our Owner's Favorite Brands on order. We expect a new shipment of copper and cast iron to arrive soon! So if you are wanting those items, they are on the way!

I hope you are all planning ahead for your Spring needs and placing your orders now. Before you know it, the bees will be here and you need to make sure you are ready for their arrival! If you have any questions, just let us know.

Nikki's Buzz from the Bee Shop...

Happy March! Things have really be "a-buzz" around here this year! With our new warehouse set up and ready to go, we wondered...what else can we do to make ordering easier for our customers? Our idea was "call ahead ordering". If you plan on visiting the store to make a purchase, but find your time limited, this is a service just for you. Give us a call at the store, place your order with one of our available customer representatives, and we will have your order ready when you arrive. Think of it as placing a "to go order" at your favorite bee shop! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

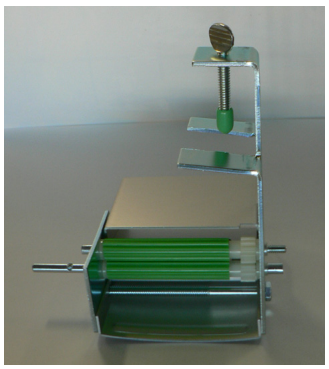
PMTC Real Deal$

Deal. *Bargain*. Sale. *Budget*. Reduced. *Slashed*. Steal. *Cheap*.
These are just a few of the words that describe the cost of items we offer in our "PMTC Real Deal$" section. Pigeon

Mountain Trading Company® prides itself on offering you the best items at the best prices. Sometimes, we can do better. Therefore, we are pleased to introduce our "PMTC Real Deal$" section featuring items that have been discontinued, items that are the last on the shelf, or items that we just think are great and deserve a special discount! All of these items are top-quality products….no outlet items here!!! So get them while you can…because once they are gone from the "PMTC Real Deal$" section…they, and the real deal sales price, are gone!

Enamel Pots & Lids
Set of Six
(3 pots, 3 lids)
These vibrant, robin's-egg blue enamel pots will be a great addition to any kitchen! Only three sets left!
750108833026RD...$75.00
Ship weight: 15 lbs.

StarMix
Stand Up Juicer
What could be better than a glass of fresh-squeezed juice? A glass made with a juicer at a great price!
7506009697264RD..$12.50
Ship weight: 3 lbs.



Mr. Pea Sheller
The Mr. Pea Sheller is gentle as hand shelled...but fast and effortless! It runs on your electric mixer but comes with a hand crank too.
PM10403RD...$35.00
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Corn Cutter
"Kernel Kuter"
This corn cutter cuts both kernel and cream style with no mess and no spatter. Stainless steel metal parts.

039117015003RD ...$5.00 *Ship weight: 1 lb.*

El Eden Organic Coffee
El Eden Organic Coffee is 100% Oaxaca Pluma Altura from Oaxaca, Mexico. It can be described as having an intense, sweet aroma, smooth flavor, and low acidity with a chocolate undertone.
Treat yourself to one of the best, if not the best, cup of coffee you will ever have. Be careful if you are not a coffee lover, because tasting our coffee is guaranteed to leave you wanting more.
Coffee1lb...$9.99 for 1 pound *Ship weight: 2 lbs.*
Coffee2.2lb...$19.99 for 2.2 pounds *Ship weight: 3 lbs.*

Zootles Room Set
This cute room set will be a hit with your safari fan!
The set includes
- one night light
- one valance
- one single switch plate
- one outlet cover,
- two drawer pulls
- wall appliques
- one jumbo wall decal

PM100RD....$20.00
Ship weight: 10 lbs.

Dont' need the whole set? Individual pieces are available!

Night Light
PM101RD...$5.00
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Single Switch Plate
PM105RD...$2.00
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Outlet Cover
PM103RD...$2.00
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Drawer Pulls (Set of 2)
PM104RD...$2.00
Ship weight: 1 lb.

Valance
PM105RD...$5.00
Ship weight: 2 lbs.

Removeable Wall Appliques
PM106RD...$8.00
Ship weight: 2 lbs.

Jumbo Wall Decal
PM107RD...$8.00
Ship weight: 2 lbs.

For many of you, March is the beginning of spring. Here in north Georgia, the winter weather has not quite gone away for good, but despite the remaining chill, it's time to start preparing for bee season! With the arrival of bees at the end of the month, we thought it might be fitting to help you prepare for your new arrivals.

If you are a newcomer to beekeeping, the first thing to know is that there are no silly questions. Ask us, ask other beekeepers...whenever you have a question, just ask! As stated by Sarah in her article, we strongly recommend the book "Beekeeping for Dummies". This is a good starter book to keep on hand, almost like a user's manual. With easy to understand instructions, you will turn to this again and again.

For those of you who don't have bees and will be getting yours this spring, you are getting a first-year hive. Next year, it will be a second-year hive, and after that, it will be referred to as an established hive. Even though there is still brutally cold weather, and lots of snow in some places, you need to prepare now for the spring season. Otherwise, you will just be playing catch up.

If you haven't ordered your equipment, do so now. This will allow you to become familiar with the equipment before you use it. At the very minimum, you are going to need the standard hive. This contains one hive stand, one hive body, 10 9-1/8" frames, one bottom board, one boardman feeder, one inner cover, one entrance reducer, one telescope cover, 10 8-1/2" plastic foundations, and one set of instructions and nails. You will also need a hive tool, protective clothing and a smoker. All of these items can be found in our beginners outfit kit.

On a warm day, before your bees arrive, place your hive in the spot of your choice. Here are some tips for selecting a good hive location.

• Location: Make sure you can get to your hive easily. Remember, you will be removing honey from these hives and you don't want to walk long distances carrying heavy honey on a hot day. It helps is you face your hive toward the sun, so the bees get an early wake-up call and begin their foraging early. The ground should be firm, flat and dry.

• Wind: Your hive is outside, and it's going to subjected to wind. But provide a windbreaker at the rear of the hive. This can be natural bushes or trees you have in your yard, or a fence. We've discussed in the past using hay bales and tarps for nasty winter weather. Just know that at some point...wind is going to be an issue.

• Sun: not too much, not too little. Bees regulate the hive temperature. You don't want them to work too hard in the summer to keep it cool, or work too hard in the winter to keep it warm. Too much shade also causes the hive to stay damp...which is bad for the bees.

• Ventilation: like sun...not too much, not too little. You don't want the air to be still and damp, but you don't want it on top of a hill where wind is constant.

• Finishing touch: the hive should be level from side to side, with the front slightly lower than the rear so that rainwater drains out of the hive. Adding mulch around the hive will prevent grass and weed from blocking the hive entrances.

When this is all done, you are ready for the arrival of your bees! As always, if you have any questions, just give us a call or drop us an email!